

Foreword

THESE stories have been taken from Islamic History. They will show non-muslims what Islam stands for, and help to remove from their minds the deep-seated prejudices entertained by them against this great religion. They will place before Muslims the sublime ideals of conduct which Islam holds up before mankind.

They may also help to pave the way for a better understanding and appreciations of the Muslim religion by non-muslims and may thus lead to communal peace in the country.

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G. M.

A DERVISH ON THE IMPERIAL THRONE

THE ALCHEMY OF ISLAM.

SULTAN Nasiruddin Mahmud was a ruler of the Slave Dynasty. He was a son of Altamash. This King was a great ruler and a great military leader, who crushed the turbulent Gakhars and the unruly Rajputs, and established peace in the land.

It is related that from his multifarious duties as the head of a great empire he managed to find time to make copies of the Quran, and with the proceeds of the sale he defrayed the expenses of his household while his noble queen performed all the household duties without the help of a servant. She ground corn, and cooked food for the family with her own hands. This sort of drudgery is enough to tax the patience of even an ordinary poor woman, but the noble queen did all this ungrudgingly and even cheerfully.

But once in the rainy season when she went into the kitchen to do the cooking as usual, she found that the firewood was not dry enough for burning, and in spite of her blowing into it with all the strength of her lungs it would not catch fire. The smoke made her eyes smart, and she was so much vexed that she could not help crying.

When it was evening and the Sultan had gone through his daily routine of duties he came to the palace, and having said his evening prayers sat down to the humble repast which the queen had set before him,